

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7 and 14-17 are present in this application, claims 14-17 being added.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over US 7,194,196 (Yamamoto et al.) and US 5,990,955 (Koz).

New claims 14-17 are supported by the specification. For example, claims 14 and 15 are supported by the nonlimiting disclosure on page 58, lines 7-9, and claims 16 and 17 are supported by the nonlimiting disclosure on page 63, lines 7-12. Accordingly, no question of introduction of new matter is believed to be raised by new claims 14-17.

Claims 1 and 7 are amended to recite segmented memory spaces which store a plurality of pieces of segmented expansion information. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 7 are clearly supported by the specification and withdrawal of the §112, first paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

The present invention, as recited in the pending claims, is directed to an information playback apparatus and method. The playback apparatus includes first and second acquisition units, a storage unit, a control unit and a playback unit. The playback unit is configured to play back contents acquired by the first acquisition unit and to play back the expansion information stored in the storage unit in synchronism with the playback of the contents. The contents contain predetermined playback information assigned with time information, the expansion information contains at least one segmented expansion information, and one segmented expansion information contains header information and main body expansion information. The header information contains time information. The playback unit plays back predetermined main body expansion information on the basis of the time information contained in the header information of the segmented expansion

information in synchronism with playback of predetermined playback information contained in the contents. Such an apparatus is not disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art.

Yamamoto et al. describes the operation of the video DVD player shown in Figure 10 in columns 17-19. Demodulation signal Sdm is inputted to demultiplexer 86, which separates the signal into video signal Sv, subpicture signal Ssp, and audio signal Sad. The demultiplexer 86 also extracts the pack header from each pack and outputs header signal Shd. Video decoder 88 outputs video signal Svd and subpicture decoder 90 outputs subpicture signal Sspd. These two signals are mixed in mixer 91. Audio decoder 93 outputs audio signal Sadd. However, there is no mention of a playback unit that plays back predetermined main body expansion information on the basis of time information contained in the header information of the segmented expansion information in synchronism with playback of predetermined playback information contained in the contents. Yamamoto et al. clearly does not disclose or suggest the apparatus of claim 1.

Koz is relied upon for teaching segmented memory spaces. First, as Koz does not disclose or suggest a playback unit as described in claim 1, a combination of Yamamoto et al. and Koz fails to disclose or suggest the apparatus of claim 1. Secondly, the Office Action refers to column 8, line 49 - column 9, line 8 of Koz. This text refers to Figure 4, having FIFO A and FIFO B. There does not appear to be any disclosure or suggestion of integrating the FIFOs.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patently distinguishable over a combination of Yamamoto et al. and Koz.

The method of claim 7 includes playing back contents acquired from an information storage medium, and playing back expansion information stored in a storage unit. The contents contain predetermined playback information assigned with time information, the expansion information contains at least one segmented expansion information, one

segmented expansion information contains header information and main body expansion information, and the header information contains time information. Playing back the contents includes playing back predetermined main body expansion information on the basis of the time information contained in the header information of the segmented expansion information in synchronism with playback of predetermined playback information contained in the contents. In Yamamoto et al., there is no mention of playing back the predetermined main body expansion information on the basis of the time information contained in the header information. Yamamoto et al. does not disclose or suggest the method of claim 7.

Koz fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yamamoto et al. since it does not suggest the playing back as recited in claim 7. Koz is also deficient for the reasons noted above regarding integrating memory spaces of a storage unit.

Claim 7 is also patently distinguishable over a combination of Yamamoto et al. and Koz.

Applicants would like to note that new claims 16 and 17 recite a storage unit being a ring buffer, which is also not believed to be disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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